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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 11, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RAY LAHOOD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Thomas A. Erickson, Interim Pastor, the National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC., offered the following prayer:

Almighty and ever-gracious God, You have given us this good land as our heritage. We thank You for patriots in the past who have occupied this Chamber and whose dedication has secured the liberties we enjoy today. Bless those who now hold office in this House. We thank You for their commitment to the highest ideals of freedom. Enable them to do their work with wisdom and kindness, that their legislation may enhance life, liberty, and justice for all. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Washington (Mr.

NETHERCUTT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NETHERCUTT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1625. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1114 Main Avenue in Clifton, New Jersey, as the "Robert P. Hammer Post Office Building".

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 10 one-minute speeches on each side.

WELCOMING THE REV. DR. THOMAS A. ERICKSON

(Mr. NETHERCUTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to welcome here to the Chamber today Dr. Tom Erickson, the interim pastor at National Presbyterian Church who offered the opening prayer. We are thankful for his presence today, and we are thankful that he has devoted himself to a ministry in the Presbyterian faith.

Dr. Erickson is no stranger to Presbyterian ministry and commitment to God. He has served a lifetime of ministries in Spokane, Washington, my home town, in California and Massachusetts; and he most recently retired

from a very large church in Paradise Valley, Arizona.

He brings to the ministry a kindness, a grace, a wisdom, a commitment to Jesus Christ, a commitment to his faith and a commitment to compassion around this country and to those he ministers to and serves. He is a credit to the ministry of the Presbyterian faith. We are so delighted that he has committed himself, even after retirement, to an interim position here in Washington, D.C. at the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, a church of great tradition and history.

He and his wife, Carol, have been married for almost 49 years. They have three beautiful daughters who are adult children, and they are devoted to those dear children and to each other and to their faith in God.

We are delighted that Dr. Erickson could be here today, and we certainly welcome him and thank him for his prayer this morning.

FAMILY FRIENDLY WAL-MART

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Wal-Mart is our Nation's largest company and it is growing. The company plans to expand its workforce from 1.2 million to 3 million over the next 5 years, and it will build 48 million square feet of new retail space.

Fortune Magazine recently named Wal-Mart the Nation's most admired company. The retail chain offers its many products and selections in a family-friendly environment.

Recently, the retail chain has announced plans to cover four women's magazines it carries on its sales racks. The content on the covers of these magazines could offend customers and are inappropriate for children. It has

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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taken similar stands in the past to protect the families who shop at their stores.

Even during tough economic times, Wal-Mart has found ways to keep people coming through the door, and it has not sacrificed the principles Sam Walton has established.

Those family-friendly principles are part of Wal-Mart's success and have set the example for how retailers should act, regardless of the economic conditions or latest trends.

WHERE WAS THE IMMINENT THREAT

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration made specific, unequivocal statements about the imminent threat posed by Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction, repeatedly claiming they had intelligence showing Iraq had 25,000 liters of anthrax, 38,000 liters of botulin toxin, 500 tons of sarin mustard and VX nerve agent, and over 30,000 munitions capable of delivering chemical agents. So where are those vast stockpiles? Where was the imminent threat?

At the State of the Union the President said, Hussein had the materials to produce as much as 500 tons of sarin mustard and VX nerve agent. Where are those vast stockpiles? Where was the imminent threat?

This administration repeatedly claimed Iraq's weapons of mass destruction represented an imminent threat to this country. They claimed specific evidence of vast stockpiles. Where are those vast stockpiles? Where was the imminent threat?

Did this administration deliberately mislead this Nation into war, telling us there was an imminent threat when there was not?

The resolution of inquiry now signed by 36 Members of the House aims to find out the truth.

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION ARE IN IRAQ

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH), who just addressed this body, raised the issue that I suspect we will hear again and again before this Congress. Where are the WMDs, and who do you believe? Did the Bush administration mislead the American people?

Well, in answering the question of who you believe, I believe Saddam Hussein, Mr. Speaker, who in 1991 after being soundly defeated in the Persian Gulf War admitted to the U.N. agency responsible for monitoring the cease fire that he possessed 10,000 nerve gas warheads, 1,500 chemical weapons, and

412 tons of chemical weapons with 25 long-range missiles.

Even President Clinton when he bombed Baghdad in 1998 said he did so to "attack Iraq's nuclear, chemical and biological programs in its capacity to threaten its neighbors."

As a State Department official told the Committee on International Relations last week, there was no change in the assessment of the WMD program from the Clinton administration to the Bush administration. Those weapons were there. The program was there. The President led America aright in this war.

CHILD TAX CREDIT SHOULD APPLY TO ALL

(Mr. SNYDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, hopefully this week the House will correct an error in the most recently signed tax cut bill and extend the tax credit to literally hundreds of thousands of American families who do not qualify under the act that was signed by the President.

One of the arguments that has been used against extending this tax credit for children to lower-income people is that they do not pay enough taxes.

This is the most recent payroll stub from one of my Little Rock residents, a single mom with two children. She works over 40 hours a week as a certified nursing assistant at a State facility.

She pays \$51.80 so far this year in Federal taxes. Look at the next two lines. She pays Social Security tax, a Federal tax. She pays her Medicare tax. A Federal tax. She pays State taxes. She pays State excise tax. She pays State sales tax. These people pay taxes. They have children. They deserve to get the benefit of this tax cut also. Please vote for a clean version of the extension of this child tax credit.

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION VISITS NORTH KOREA

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in my travels over the years promoting democracy, I have visited communist nations, but none have had the anomalies of my visit to the capital of North Korea, Pyongyang, on a congressional delegation last week led by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON).

The government officials tried to show North Korea as if nothing were wrong. Yet empty streets and buildings gave signs of a fragile economy, and the intense communist and anti-American propaganda gave signs of a weak society.

President Bush has praised our troops for getting the world's attention

with success in Afghanistan and Iraq. Our invitation was a reflection of this attention, summarized by delegation co-chairman, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ), who said, "The world has either seen the light or felt the heat."

North Korea is a tipping point, struggling to hold up a crumbling society that was neglected in the pursuit of nuclear weapons. I support the efforts of President Bush to seek a peaceful solution with North Korea so they will be disarmed by the nuclear threat and that innocent North Korean civilian can be saved from tragedy.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

CURRENT UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION IS GRIM

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about something that the President does not want you to hear about. It is called our country's current unemployment situation.

Now, when the President began his term a little over 2 years ago, our Nation's unemployment rate stood at 4.1 percent, but today it stands at 6.1 percent. That means that there are 2.6 million people more who do not have a job. That is not those people who lost their jobs during this time and were able to find another job that paid less. There are plenty of those people who are making less. Or those people who stayed on the job but had to make less because their wages were cut.

No, these are people who are out of jobs, 2.6 million more people; 1.1 million more of them in California.

□ 1015

The situation is even worse if you are a Hispanic, because the unemployment rate is now at 8.2 percent for Hispanics.

More than 1.5 million Hispanics, Mr. President, have lost their jobs since you took office. We have got to start talking about this and doing something about this job loss.

WILLIAM "BOO" BARTON

(Mr. HENSARLING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a young man from Groesbeck, Texas, William "Boo" Barton, a 17-year-old high school junior with an incredible athletic gift, an incredible story and an incredibly big heart, as big as the State of Texas. Last September while playing for the Groesbeck Goats football team, Boo Barton suffered a tragic injury on the field. Shortly afterwards, doctors were forced to amputate his left leg 4 inches below the knee. The doctors told Boo with luck he would be able to walk, but